

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-27 are currently under rejection, of which claims 1, 7, 14 and 23 are independent. Claims 3, 5, 16 and 21 are cancelled by this amendment. Applicant and Applicant's attorney have considered the Examiner's comments in the outstanding non-final Office Action and submit that claims 1, 2, 4, 6-16, 18-20 and 22-27 are allowable over the rejections.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-13 and 23-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In response to the Examiner's comments, the recitation of "bubble type" has been deleted from the preamble of claims 1, 7 and 23. Applicant submits that claims 1-13 and 23-27 are now compliant with 35 U.S.C. 112.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly anticipated by *Aanestad* (WO 98/10216).

Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly anticipated by *Handwerker* (U.S. Patent No. 5,549,956).

Aanestad teaches a multi-layer insulation blanket comprising a series of layers which include a pair of closed cell or bubble insulation sheets 10, 12 which are separated and laminated on the inside by a thin white polyethylene film 14. The blanket further includes a pair of aluminum foil layers 16, 18 adhesively overlying the outer surface of the insulation sheets 10, 12. Additionally, a pair of thin clear polyester layers 20, 22 are provided on the outer surfaces of the aluminum foil layers for protection of the aluminum. (See specification page 11, lines 31-35 - page 12 lines 1-17). The polyester outer layers are required to cover the aluminum coatings to prevent oxidation of the aluminum coatings. (See specification page 13, lines 8-11). As such, *Aanestad* teaches that the reference blanket requires a film layer 14 between the insulation sheets 10, 12, and that the blanket requires aluminum layers on the outside of each of the insulation sheets.

The *Aanestad* reference does not teach or suggest the combination of a bottom outer layer comprising a heat insulative layer having a second plurality of spaced apart insulative elements, and the second plurality of insulating elements having reflective material applied thereto, as specifically recited in claim 1 as presently amended. The bottom outer layer of the reference disclosure consists of thin polyester layers 20, 22, which do not include a plurality of insulating elements. The layer beneath the *Aanestad* polyester layers 20, 22, is a sheet of aluminum, with no spaced apart insulative elements, as recited in amended claim 1. The heat insulative elements of the reference structure appear in the third layer from the bottom of the reference structure, and do not form part of the bottom layer as claimed by applicant. For these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 1, as currently amended, is allowable over the *Aanestad* reference.

Applicant also submits that dependent claim 2, 4 and 6, which all depend from claim 1, are allowable for the reasons set forth above in support of the allowability of claim 1 over the *Aanestad* reference.

The *Handwerker* reference at FIGS. 4 and 6 teaches a heat reflective blanket comprising outer surface layers 12, 14 which surround enclosed insulative layers 16, 30. Additionally, the reference blanket includes heat reflective layers of aluminum foil 18, 32, 34 to assist in thermal resistance. The heat reflective layers 18, 32, 34 are positioned between the insulative layers 16, 30 and the outer surface layers 12, 14. (See column 4, lines 15-17 and FIGS. 4 and 6). As such, *Handwerker* does not teach or suggest a bottom outer layer comprising a heat insulative layer including a plurality of spaced apart insulating elements, and having reflective material applied to the insulative elements of the bottom outer layer. The *Handwerker* reference teaches separate heat reflective layers 18, 32, 34 inserted between the insulative layers and the bottom layer(s).

In contrast, the present invention discloses a heat reflective blanket that exhibits enhanced thermal reflective capability without a corresponding increase in thickness or weight, resulting in inexpensive manufacturing of the claimed blanket. The present invention discloses a heat reflective blanket having a bottom layer adapted to be placed adjacent curing concrete, for example. The claimed bottom layer comprises spaced apart insulating elements, and reflective material is applied to the insulative elements. The *Handwerker* reference does not disclose a bottom layer structure as defined by claim 1, as currently amended. The combination of the insulative elements and the chamber creates a heat transfer path and an insulation barrier. The

insulative layer in the bottom of the claimed structure creates a reflective surface to redirect radiant heat back towards the concrete. (See specification page 11, lines 18-24 and page 12, line 1.) Accordingly, the claimed reflective bottom structure of the blanket adds insulation qualities without adding more layers to the blanket. Applicant submits that claim 1, as currently amended, is allowable over the *Handwerker* reference.

Claims 2, 4 and 6 each depend from claim 1, and are submitted as allowable over the *Handwerker* reference as depending from an allowed claim.

Claim 7 is also submitted as allowable over either the *Aanestad* or the *Handwerker* references. Claim 7 recites a single heat insulative layer disclosed in the chamber, the top layer of the claimed concrete cure blanket being fixed to an upper portion of the heat insulative layer, the bottom layer fixed to a lower portion of the heat insulative layer, and the bottom layer having heat reflective material applied thereto. This embodiment of the invention is illustrated in FIG. 4. The *Aanestad* reference does not disclose the top and bottom layers 20, 22 fixed to the same heat insulative layer. In *Aanestad*, the top layer 20 is fixed to foil layer 16, which in turn is fixed to first insulative layer 10. The bottom outer layer 22 is fixed to foil layer 18, which in turn is fixed to second insulative layer 12. Therefore, claim 7 distinguishes over the *Aanestad* disclosure.

The *Handwerker* reference also fails to anticipate the invention recited in claim 7. FIG. 2 of *Handwerker* discloses a concrete cure blanket having a top and a bottom layer 12, 14, and a single insulative layer 16. Reflective material 18 is disposed between an upper portion of the insulative layer 16 and top layer 12. Thus, the upper portion of insulative layer 16 is not fixed to the top layer, as recited in claim 7. Also, in the single insulative layer embodiment of the *Handwerker* reference blanket shown in FIG. 2, the bottom layer 14 does not have heat reflective material applied thereto. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 7 distinguishes over the *Handwerker* reference.

Claims 8-13 are also submitted as allowable as depending from allowable claim 7 for the reasons set forth above directed to the patentability of claim 7.

Claim 14, as presently amended, is also submitted as allowable over either the *Aanestad* and/or *Handwerker* references. Claim 14 recites that each insulative element includes a first raised portion, and a second flat portion providing spaces between the insulative elements, the

top outer layer fixed to the second flat portion of the first insulative layer, and the bottom insulative layer having heat reflective material applied thereto.

Aanestad teaches a top layer 20 fixed to a foil sheet 16, not to a flat portion of insulative layer 10, as recited in Applicant's claim 14. Also, the bottom layer 22 of *Aanestad* is a clear sheet that covers separate foil layer 18. Therefore, *Aanestad* fails to teach (1) a bottom layer having heat reflective material applied thereto in combination with (2) a top outer layer fixed to a flat portion of the first insulative layer, as recited in claim 14. Therefore, claim 14 is submitted as allowable over *Aanestad*.

The *Handwerker* reference does not disclose or suggest an embodiment where the top outer layer 12 is fixed to a flat portion of the first insulative layer. In FIGS. 3-6 of *Handwerker*, the top outer layer 12 is fixed to foil layer 18. The foil layer 18 is fixed to the raised portion of insulative layer 16 in the *Handwerker* reference, and not to the flat portion of the insulative layer. Also, in the *Handwerker* reference, the reflective material comprises a separate foil layer, rather than a bottom insulative layer having reflective material applied thereto. Thus, the *Handwerker* reference does not disclose the structure of Applicant's concrete cure blanket recited in claim 14, and claim 14 is submitted as allowable over this reference.

Claims 15, 17-20 and 22 are submitted as allowable as depending from allowable claim 14, as presently amended.

Claim 23 is submitted as allowable over either the *Aanestad* or *Handwerker* reference. claim 23 recites a concrete cure blanket having:

1. a first insulative layer fixed to the top outer layer;
2. a second insulative layer fixed to the bottom outer layer; and
3. at least one of the insulative layers having reflective material applied thereto.

As stated previously, neither reference discloses the top outer layer fixed to the first insulative layer. Each reference teaches a separate foil layer between the top (and bottom) outer layers and a respective insulative layer. Also, both references disclose a separate layer of foil material, and not reflective material applied to at least one insulative layer, in combination with the outer layer/insulative layer structure recited in claim 23. Therefore, claim 23 is submitted as allowable over either of the two applied references.

Claims 24-27 are also submitted as allowable since they each depend from allowable claim 23, as presently amended.